# Improving Writing Outcomes for P4 Learners

Sharon McGregor, Class Teacher, St Columba's RC Primary School

**Stretch Aim:** By May 2025, 84% of P4 pupils will achieve CFE First Level in Writing.

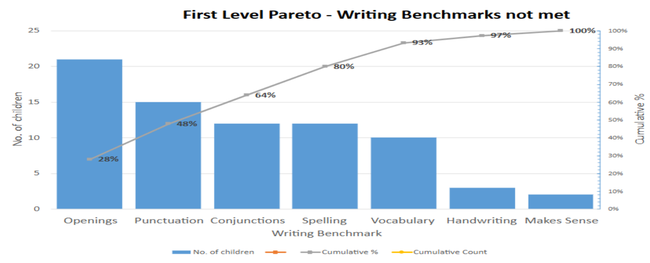
**Teaching Aims:** By December 2024, 84% of P4 pupils will use a range of openers in their writing. (First, Next After,Then, Finally) (baseline 61% Sept'24)

By February 2025 92% of P4 pupils will use a range of punctuation (baseline 39% Sept '24)

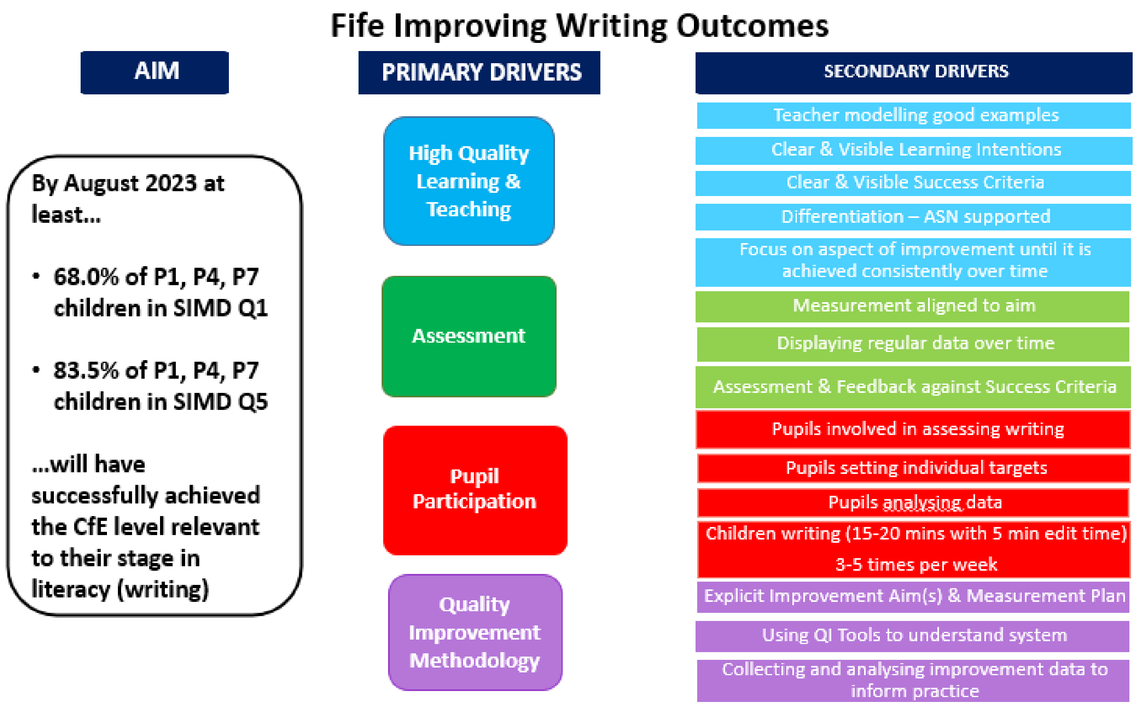
By March 2025 92% of P4 pupils will use a range of vocabulary (baseline 58% Sept '24)

## Method

- Established an Improvement Team.
- Attended Fife QI Improving Writing Programme (Wave 11).
- Carried out a baseline assessment against CfE benchmarks.
- The baseline assessment was used to create a pareto chart.
- The biggest challenge for the majority of the children was with sentence starters.
- The pareto chart informed our teaching aims.



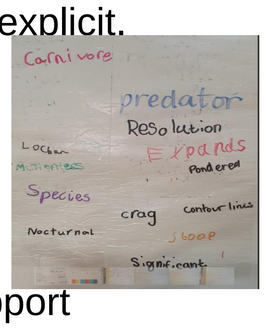

## Process Change




## Implement

- Children writing 3-5 times per week.
- Write for 15 mins, 5 mins to self check.
- Teacher input aligned to aim (stimulus, dialogue, model)

- Share Learning Intention and make Success Criteria explicit.
- Assess and feedback against Success Criteria.
- Involve Children in the process!
- Visual supports
- Use of fishbone tool to drill down into how best to support learners with specific ASN and barriers to learning.

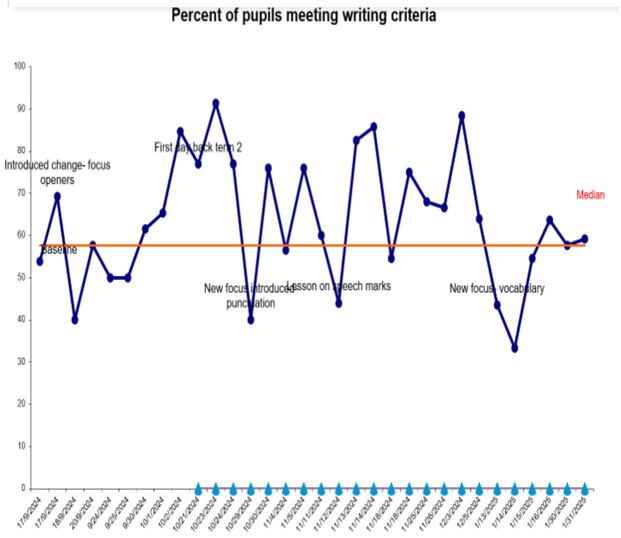


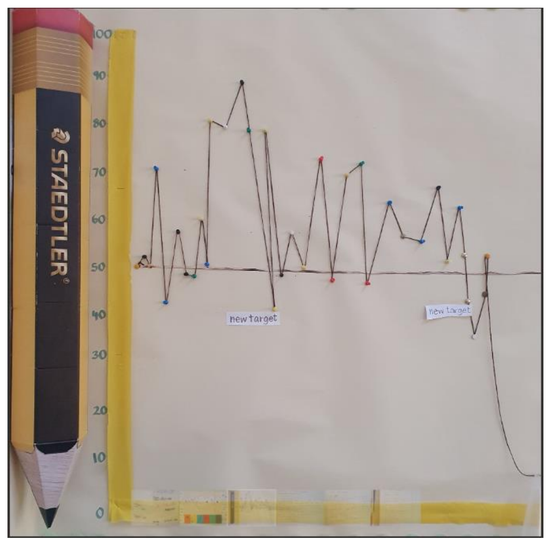
## Achievements

By Dec '24 84% of children can use a range of openers.
(baseline 61% September '24)

By Feb '25 92% of children can use punctuation.
(baseline 39% September '24)

## Results



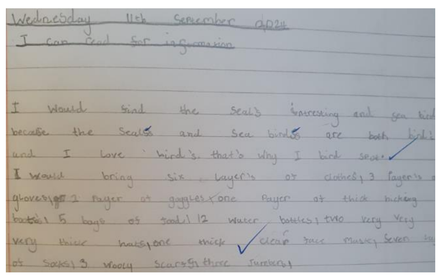



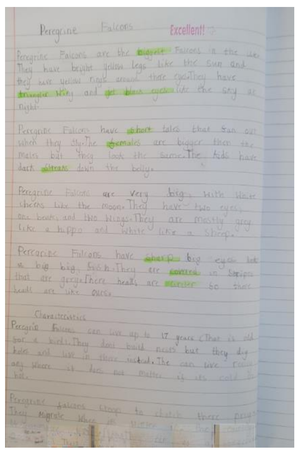

## Conclusions

I am "in the middle" instead of completely negative.
*I have gone from a 20% to a 60%*

I like having one focus.
*I like how we do it more but for a shorter time.*

I feel good about writing.
Writing is very amazing.





## Key Learning Points

- Big improvement in the quality of writing produced.
- The focus of my teaching is much clearer. It makes assessment and feedback much easier. I think because I am invested and enthusiastic about it, the pupils are excited about it too. The children are much more engaged in their writing and love the "big reveal" on the run chart each day.
- Writing for 15 minutes each day has been very positive. The children are much more focused and the quality of writing has improved. On a few occasions the children have asked to keep going!
- Although I have given the children time to read over their work and check they have met their target, they still find it difficult to see their mistakes. They love to correct my mine though! We have started to peer assess writing.
- Overall, very positive results in my classroom which are filtering through to other classes who want to know what it's all about.
- Introducing Colourful Semantics has helped to support learners who find writing difficult.
- Introducing a Word Wall has helped to promote a vocabulary rich environment.

## Next steps

Continue to implement the bundle and embed this into general practice. Try to keep it fresh and engaging and keep the run chart going.

3 more members of staff have started the Wave 12 training which will give support and consistency across the school.

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Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative